MAY 0 9 2002 5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Gaspard, et al.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC DISCOVERY OF NETWORK DEVICES WITH DATA FORWARDING CAPABILITIES

App. No.:

10/029,124

Filed: 12-19-2001

Examiner:

Unknown

Group Art Unit:

2661

Atty. Dkt. No. 1400.1374870

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 26 as follows:

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said step of receiving said fifth message from said fifth device comprises receiving a SNMP message.